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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Nation Backs the President

O NE of the most gratifying products of the State Department's firm protest to Great Britain against the unnecessary and other interference with American commerce is the support it is receiving from all political parties. Partisan clamor is stilled for the time, and there is little or no respectable disagreement with the position the administration, for the protection of the national dignity and honor, has been forced to take.

No less gratifying is the spirit in which the communication has been received by the British ministry, press and public. The London newspapers, practically without dissent way it is the sort of protest a great nation, considering itself aggrieved, might be expected to make. There is every indication that suitable reparation for past injuries will be made and adequate precautions taken against their repetition.

When a problem is approached by both sides in this spirit of justice and conciliation, there need be, chviously, no apprehension of an unhappy outcome.

Druggists' Help in Antidrug Crusade R ICHMOND will hope that the support Richmond druggists have promised the police, in the effort to suppress the sale of cocaine and similar drugs, will be given in generous measure. As a matter of fact, the druggists have it in their power to render invaluable assistance in this crusade, and owe the public a special duty to do what they can to make the fight effective.

Mareover, they owe a like duty to themselves. So long as habit-forming drugs are sold here in Richmond, on the scale the police say they are being sold, public suspicion will be directed to persons in the drug business. Nine-tenths of this suspicion will be wholly unjust and undeserved, but it will exist none the less. It should be deprived of any meat on which to feed.

The druggists, individually and collectively, can accomplish this end very thoroughly, and perform at the same time a great public service, by cordial co-operation with the efforts of the police. They will be very unwise should the promised assistance prove lacking in any of its needed elements of impartiality, determination and vigor.

Another Scrap of Paper?

RESENT suggestions from Germany that exequaturs of American consuls accredited to Belgium would have to be "modified," whatever that may mean, have renewed he expectation that the Kaiser was on the verge of formally annexing conquered Belgian territory to the empire. This expectaon has inspired the republication of one of e official telegrams sent by the German oreign Office to its embassy in London and ommunicated to the British government just efore Great Britain cast its lot with the al-

In part, this telegram reads:

Please dispel any mistrust that may subsist on the part of the British gov ernment with regard to our intentions, by repeating most positively formal assurance that, even in case of armed conflict with Belgium, Germany will, no pretence whatever, annex Belgian territory. Sincerfty of this declaration is horne out by fact that we solemnly pledged our word to Holland strictly to respect her neutrality. It is obvious that we could not profitably unnex Belgian territory without making at the same time territorial acquisitions at the expense of Holland.

These declarations of Germany's attitude toward Belgium are so clear and explicit as to be incapable of misunderstanding. It will be interesting to observe if they constitute another "scrap of paper," as did the treaties, to which Germany was a party, that guaranteed Belgium's neutrality. If they do, their rereading may make Holland rather uncomfortable.

Those Fit for Farms

A MOVEMENT has begun, fathered by the Forward to the Land League, to push obless and penniless men of the city out into the farming districts, where "hands" are needed. The central idea is the purchase of 50,000 acres, upon which any man who wishes may leave the city and farm a tract, with a cow, seed and chickens thrown in. New York will first be depopulated, so far as the excess of labor's demand is willing, then Chicago. The movement is indorsed by the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Labor. Each man who farms a tract will get his board. lodging and a moderate wage, which in the necessities of life is more than he can get in the crowded cities.

A question arises as to how many of the dobless are fit for farms. It is a fact that the average city man who is out of a job is unfitted for country life. He couldn't do a thing useful around the farm. He would have to earn from the ground up, and, in the meanme, he would be more or less in the way. an get along in the city in average me one of competition for a mere living same one of competition for a mere living before, 10 arth over and plant seed and culti-if Farre of the 1

vate his tract. But the more important question is: "How many of the city unemployed are fit for farming, temperamentally?" There are city men who would rather starve on Broadway than all granaries by the sweat of their brows.

Since our early forefathers cut paths in the primeval forest and builded homes with axes and guns, development of the urban life has increased the problem of getting more pioneers, or assistant pioneers, to finish the work in the field. This problem will always be with us, and to the army of unemployed who, by temperament, are out of the question in the country are added hordes of immigrants, who are even more unfitted.

The Forward to the Land League may be a promising sign of the times, but, until it has been demonstrated, it can be hardly much more than that. And this movement alone will only be a drop in the bucket of movements that will rise and fall or partly succeed before the industrial congestion problem is solved.

Tax Segregation Will Aid Communities

D EMAND for tax reform in Virginia, as laid down in the report of the Committee on Tax Revision, is based on "the inequality of assessments, which is the inevitable outcome of the inability of the State to regulate the assessments upon which its revenues are levied." Because The Times-Dispatch has not been able to believe that any fair promise of equalization was held out by the plan for a Tax Commission, it has urged that the alternative plan of partial segregation be adopted.

That plan will be helpful to the counties and cities of Virginia, as well as to the State as a whole. "Public opinion," as the report says, "would demand the listing of all private property for taxation, when all the revenue from it would be expended locally. Persons and firms would be the more reconciled to an adequate assessment when they realized that the taxes would be laid out in their own sections, and a general community sentiment in favor of fairer assessments would be the more readily developed."

These are the views, we take it. of that minority of the committee that recommended partial segregation, although it is sometimes difficult, in reading the report, to determine where unanimity ends and disagreement begins. At any rate, they evidence an accurate acquaintance with human nature, and express expectations far more likely to be realized than some of the hopeful prophesies of the majority.

It is unlikely that the majority's plan for reserving real estate as a subject of taxation for State purposes is capable of accomplishing the objects it seeks. Equalization of realty assessments is by no means impossible, but it can be achieved only by a State commission, exercising great powers, spending much money and pursuing through experts a difficult and prolonged investigation. It will not be attained, certainly, by any patchwork or makeshift policy.

Under all the circumstances, the partial segregation plan is the better of the two and, probably, the best that can be obtained. It would be foolish to throw away a chance for great improvement in our system of taxation, because at one stroke we are not able to attain perfection.

Causes of the War

IF the fighting continues long enough, everything above and below the surface of the earth will have been ransacked to furnish the one and indubitable cause of the trouble. At the outset we were told that war was due to Servia's desire to disrupt the empire of Francis Joseph. Then we learned that Germany simply had to invade Belgium because Russia proposed to make a like incursion into East Prussia, which is sacred soil because the Junkers there attain their maximum development. After that, as the knowledge of the teachings of Germany's military and civilian philosophers and historians became more general, folks came to believe that Europe was convulsed with war because the Kaiser aimed at world dominion as the legitimate goal of German Kultur. And so it has gone -at least one new reason each week.

The latest, and to that extent the truest, cause of the war has now been brought to light by a clergyman who read in a book that the Germans must get immediate and permanent possession of the large hematite iron ore deposits recently discovered in France, or that country's financiers and engineers will in the next fifty years make her the leading people of Europe, while the land of Kultur will be occupying a back seat because it will have used up all its iron ore.

And there you are, until somebody else reads some other prophetic book, when a new cause for the war will be brought to the surface. There must be something of the pleasure of the chase in bagging a fresh reason for Europe's madness. But when the quarry is brought home, the chances are that it does not greatly refresh the spirit or inform the mind of the people, at least not of the American people. To sum up American opinion would be an impossible and possibly a useless task, even if it were possible. Every shade of every possible view of the conflict has its representatives in this country. There are indications, however, that the weight of opinion in this country inclines to the belief that the war was brought about because Germany felt that her military preparations had reached the pitch of perfection that would enable her to seize the dominating position in the family of nations.

The Harvard professor who said he could detect kindergarten graduates among the freshmen "by the softness of their mental fibre," must have reached the conclusion that most of his first-year classes had sat at the feet of disciples of Froebel.

In the sense of the income tax law, a New York judge has decided, alimony is not income. Some unwilling ex-husbands have reached the conclusion that it is more in the nature of outgo.

North Richmond property owners are clamoring for more water. They ought to be able to get plenty of it after November. 1916.

Comptroller of the Currency Williams is as much pleased with the Federal reserve act and its operation as is the rest of the country.

Shoplifting will cease to be one of our leading indoor sports if Justice Crutchfield follows the rule he laid down yesterday.

Jack Frost is having lots of fun with Rich-Now you see him and now you don't.

Here's hoping we get new post-office facilities-somewhere and somehow!

SONGS AND SAWS

The Fly in the Ointment.

How can a fellow even think

He'll have a glad New Year,

When all the time his spirits sink

'Cause playtime's end draws near?

You older folks may sit and chat Of nineteen-fifteen's rule, But Monday—great Jehosophat— I've got to go to school.

The Pessimist Says: These are bitter days for the Jingoes. They cannot even hope that England is going to be nasty and stir up a row with Uncle Sam.

Time's Changes He-Miss Oldgirl's complexion isn't getting ny better, is it?

any better, is it? She-No, she rather yellows with age. A Talented Child.



"What's the matter with young Clarence?" asked the friend of the family, as he passed on the street the young mother and her offspring. suffering with double

mumps?" "No, indeed," was the doting parent's answer. "I am teaching the dear boy to chew gum on both sides of his mouth at the same

All There. Anxious Highbrow—I want to buy a book treating in detail of the art of strategy.

Clerk—Here is the very thing you want. It is entitled "How to Keep a Good Cook."

> Going and Coming. "You bet I'm out for all reforms," A politician said one day.
> "I give the people what they want
> And then take it away." THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

Comment of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot: "A Washington correspondent says there is a great deal more to Jim Ham Lewis than whiskers, and we have known more than one clean-shaven man who lacked much besides hirsute adornment." No stronger argument for copious whiskers could be reasonably asked than George ernard Shaw.

The Henry Bulletin remarks: "England says has 2,000,000 men 'under arms.' France and Belgium would feel better if there were a few more of them in the trenches." At any rate, under arms is better than under foot.

Arguing against a large increase in the standng army or navy of the United States, Editor Johnston, of the Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg, says: "The Gazette does not impute to any man a false motive in his position, but the way certain interests are becoming active for an increase in our military establishment, it looks like some one is spreading this propaganda because it will ultimately benefit their business." The unselfish impulses behind the argument will be appreciated all the more when it is recalled that Williamsburg has mills that turn out trainloads of medicated and other bandage cotton for which armies and navies create a market.

The champion all-round, catch-as-catch-can optimist is a Henry County woman. Her identity is thus disclosed by Editor Gil Knight in his Big Stone Gap Post: "Thursday morning while Mrs. J. G. Munsey's cook was getting breakfast, the stove blew up and threw the fire over the floor, which would have set the kitchen on fire if it hadn't been for Mrs. Munsey's present of mind. She was very optimistic about her stove being blown up, though, and said: 'I am glad of it, because I have always wanted a range, anyhow!" Great is the fame surviving Mrs. O'Leary, whose cow kicked over the lamp that burned down old Chicago. But how much greater it would be if history recorded that madame's complacent remark, as she observed the cowshed crumbling in the flames, "Well, anyway, 'tis a cold night-and a WRS: good fire is warmin'!'

From the Covington Virginian: "The Free State News says that, between the man with the hoe and the man with the dough, the latter is the more powerful. Yes, but you must wield the hoe in order to get the dough. Aln't that sough? Ough! Ough! Nough! Go slough!

"South Carolina will doubtless have several good resolutions fixed up for Cole Blease next Friday," the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch says. It is needless to specify one to the effect that Blease and a New Year will not come in again

"Harry Thaw has been posing for the motion picture men. Ought not those reels to be blue-penciled by the censor?" the Newport News Times-Herald asks. Harry should be familiar with the reels. His adventures as a gilded youth were full of them. Likewise, he has proven

Current Editorial Comment

Through the action of Justice Lamar, the Frank case will go before the United States Supreme Review of Frank's Court for review. This is as it Case

should be. The Constitution provides that no citizen of the United States shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. Leo M. Frank may be guilty of murder, but it is more than doubtful whether there was due process of law in finding him guilty. Where the defendant in a murder trial is excluded from court because of threats of mob violence when the jury returns its verdict, that is more the of statute law. It was within the power of the Governor of Georgia to prevent the execution of Frank, but this would have been no solution been no solution of the case. If Frank is guilty of the crime charged against him he ought to be hanged. his freedom to the clemency of a Governor. The main question of law involved in this extraordinary case is one that only this co-competent to answer.—New York World.

Two-Story Possible

The city council's commission on downtown improvements was informed by its investigators other day that ten acres of pavement are torn up every year in

the district between Twelfth Street, the river and the lake in underground construction and repairs. The purpose of the investigation is to furnish a concrete argument for action by the city to provide underground galleries for pipes, conduits, wires and all the multitude of equipments for services which it is more advantageous to perform collectively than individually. In a word, it is a proposal for what may be termed two-story streets. The general idea of two-story streets is not new. Heretofore, however, its thought has mainly directed toward a division of wh Some are beginning to doubt the wisdom of such division. Theypoint out that the effect of subways and elevated roads is still more to concentrate human labor in a small area, when what the laborers need for their own welfare a dispension that will lessen the physical and nervous pressure they now endure. More important in its permanent benefits seems a di-vision that would provide different roadways for different kinds of traffic—for the animate and the inanimate, as it may be called. In the streets of our great cities is already an underworld of traffic. It needs to be organized, to be given definite rules of the road and freede novement and room for expansion without interthe animate traffic above. present it can hardly grow without such inter-ference, which is both troublesome and costly.

Two-story streets in the area named would save Chicago \$500,000 a year and add vastly to public comfort.—Chicago Herald.

Noise Acts as Nation's Safety Valve to their business affairs.

Americans are living at a fast pace, most of the time keyed up to a high tension. They give enormously of their nerve power to their business affairs. Some

go to the breaking point pre-maturely and pay the inevitable toll. But con-stantly we are learning the lesson and devoting more attention to wholesome diversion, such as baseball, football (those who do not play them get the benefit as spectators and devotees), golf, tennis, autoing and others. These we may call the safety valves for the evene of our golf, tennis, autoing and others. These we may call the safety valves for the escape of our excess steam. When the vressure of pent-up anxiety and care reaches the point of exhaustion, there is the safety valve for the escape. and every man owes it to himself, his family and his business to make the most of it. Some of our decorous friends from other lands have been abashed at the volume of what strikes them as rowdyism displayed at baseball, for example, but what if Americans had no such popular outlet for their native strenuosity what would become of them? It is not rowdy-ism, but rather sportsmanship, the same sort that sends a fellow into the air at a horse race (of which we ought to have more), or an auto race, or any other exciting contest or competirace, or any other exciting contest or competi-tion. They are safety valves that enable one to turn his mind entirely away from the vexing cares of business .- Omaha Bee

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 31, 1864.)

There is this morning no war news. Even the usual idle drumming of the Yankee cannon along the lines in front of Richmond and Petersalong the lines in front of itenmond and retera-burg was unheard during yesterday and for two days past. The private soldiers on both sides seemed to have determined on a Christ-mas holiday, and the orders of the officers above them had no effect.

The Confederate War Department would give out no news yesterday, claiming that it had none. However, a rumor got out on the streets that the same department had very important dispatches from Tennessee and Georgia.

Private information reaches us that Colonel Mosby's wound that he suffered in Prince William County is not of a serious character, very painful. Colonel Mosby and three of his efficers were taking supper in the home were taking supper in the home good lady friend, and while sitting at the table a squad of Yankees approached the house and fired through the window. One of the shots struck Colonel Mosby in the abdomen and he fell to the floor. The good lady of the house, anticipating the cause of the sudden disturbance, quickly approached the wounded colonel. and with her scissors removed the stars from his collar, which designated his rank. Soon the Yankees rushed into the house, and finding the wounded and bleeding soldier lying on the floor, inquired who he was. They were told it was just one of Mosby's raiders. The Yanks, thinking he was so seriously wounded that death would soon follow paid no further attention to him, and left the scene. Two hour later Colonel Mosby was being conveyed in a comfortable carriage to a place of safety, and is now being treated for what is really only ; slight wound. At first it was thought the wound was very serious, the ball having struck him in the abdomen. However it glanced, and after all made only a flesh wound.

The Ballard House was a scene of industry nd great energy yesterday, and as for that matter, has been for several days past. There Colonel John P. Ballard has turned over the entire hotel, it may be said, to the managers of the Confederate soldiers' New Year's dinner. All of the cooking is being done in the Ballard House kitchens and dining-rooms, and up to last night the flesh and fowl already cooked and ready for the big dinner on Monday next is amply sufficient to feed 40,000 men for one good, healthy meal. Additions are being made good, healthy meal. Additions are being made every minute, and before the service will begin day after to-morrow there will be holiday rations for not less than 50,000 men. This dinner will be served on the Richmond and Peters burg lines Monday next (January 2), New Year's Day being a Sunday.

The Religious Herald, after a short suspension, due to the exegencies of war, has resumed its regular weekly visits, and hopes now to continue them without interruption. The Herald is the oldest Southern religious journal, being now in its thirty-eighth year. It is the organ of the Baptists, the largest body of Christians in Virginia. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury

of the United States just submitted to the Federal Congress shows that the war expenditures of the Yankee government for the quarter ending September 30, 1864, amounted to \$353. 061,861. The daily cost of the war to the United States government is \$3,837,737 per day.

In the recent fight down on the Roanoke River, Colonel J. N. Whitford, of Richmond, was seriously wounded. His arm will have to be amputated.

The Voice of the People

Taxation Based on Property Benefits.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,-To-day's editorial says that the ideal system for the tax reform program is "that which requires every class of property that is taxed at all to contribute a proportionately equal amount to the expenses of government." This brief appears to be a fain and just state-ment of the case for tax reform, and I expect that 99 per cent of our people would say go right.

But there is a serious and fundamental error in this method. It is just a recapitulation of the old idea of "taxing according to the ability to pay." If all the various forms of property and evidences of property received the same benefit from government and public service, then it would be fair and just to tax all these forms of property at the same rate per hundred dollars is not the case, and experience has shown that it is good public policy and good business for the community to "ease up" taxes on some classes of property.

Real tax reform aims to "tax according to the benefits of government." Houston, Texas, Pittsburgh and other cities are aiming in that direction. "PIEDMONT." Charlottesville, Va., December 29, 1914.

"Buck to the Farm" for Unemployed.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,-For several weeks your columns have contained something about the thousands of people in Richmond and other cities who are out of work, and the demands on charitable institutions for help. Is it not a fact that such need is confined almost exclusively to the cities, while in the country none but the indigentand there are few of them-are in need of food

If so, naturally the question arises, why does such a condition exist? The congested contres of population seem to give the answer. The people have forsaken the farms and crowded into the cities. Lured by the love of ease that city life seems to offer in times of business prosperity, when they can got work with shorter hours, more ready cash, shielded from the hot summer sun and cold winter winds, they have flocked to the cities, and now the wolf is at the door of the home he never came near in the

country.

I doubt if there is a farm or a sawmill or any other business in the country in this State where labor is employed that is not in need of more help. As to the farms, it is a well-known fact the laborer has forsaken them, forsakes the only source of food, the inevitable follows.

Many of the needy now in the citles can remember when they left a comfortable home in the country, where although they had to toll in the hot summer sun through long and weary hours and could not have much cash to spend nor wear as good clothing as they have in flourishing times in the city, after each day's toil they had no apprehension of lack of plenty of good nourishing food and clothing to keep them comfortable and wood for fuel, to disturb their slumbers. Not that I would deprecate the good work of

charity to help the unfortunate in the cities who are out of work, for I know it is impossible for the man who has a family to pull up when-ever his employment in the city is cut off, and move to the country, but it seems to me that back to the farm is the remedy for the dis-tressing need that now exists in the cities. R. DICKINSON.

Milford, Va., December 29, 1914.

PREPARING TO GO

Mother Earth: "Can't You Take This Thing With You Too? You Brought It." One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



-From the Chicago Herald.

UNITED STATES NOT BEHIND IN TRADE

The total foreign trade of the twen-, exports to the United States exceeded

Panama the figures are partly esti-mated, being founded upon incomplete the partly estimated, being founded upon incomplete cent of their total imports, from the

How is this trade distributed among the principal commercial nations of the world, and in particular, what share has the United States therein? It comes, sometimes, as a surprise to Americans when they are told that the United States enjoys a larger proportion of the foreign trade of the Latinarican republics than any other country in the world. In 1913 the share of the United States was more than three times that of France, nearly double that of Germany, and 25 per cent, and in Haiti the exports to both France and Germany exceeded three times that of the United Kingdom, \$643,586,386; Germany, \$407,122,374; France, \$238,813,453.

Linit 1912 the least on the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent of the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to Germany, 7.9 per cent. In only two of the ten countries named did the United States exports; in Guatemala, the exports to Germany represented 52.9 per cent of their total foreign exports, to the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to the United States 71.3 per cent of their total foreign exports, to the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to the United States 71.3 per cent of their total foreign exports, to the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to the United States 71.3 per cent of their total foreign exports, to the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to the United Kingdom, 1.1. per cent, to the United States 2.6 per cent. In only two of the ten countries named did the United States exports; in Guatemala, the exports to Germany represented 52.9 per cent of the United States 2.9 per cent. In the total foreign exports, to the United States 71.3 per cent of the

United Kingdom, \$643,586,386; Germany, and in Cuba, 78.8 per cent.

\$407,122,374; France, \$238,813,453.

Until 1913 the lead on the United States was States in the foreign trade of Latinby no means so advantageous. Of the by no means so advantageous. Of the States was by no means so advantageous. States in the foreign trade of Latin-America was due to its share of Latin-American exports, but the United Kingdom has heretofore lead in the volume of Latin-American imports. In 1313, for the first time, the United States supplied 15.25 per cent of the imports; the United Kingdom, 27.73 per cent; Germany, 18.35 per cent, and its shipments to the twenty countries being \$325,837,345, as against the United Kingdom, \$325,837,345, as against the United Kingdom, \$217,976,202, and France \$110,484,385.

Notwithstanding the efforts put forward by the British manufacturers in 1914, and particularly since the beginning of the war, to maintain their position of the United States as the leading country in Latin-American trade is due to its commanding positions. sition in the Latin-American trade, and to capture a large share of the

In Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, to United Kingdom, 20.4 per cent, and Panama, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, in Peru, 28.8 per cent, to United King-Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and dom, 26.2 per cent, to United King-Uruguay, ten countries in all, the imit Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and

The total foreign trade of the twenty Latin-American republics for the year 1913, was \$2.864,876,224. Of this amount, \$1,325,752,627 represented imports and \$1,539,123,597 exports.

The figures above are compiled by the Pan-American Union from original reports from the saveral countries.

The figures above are compiled by the Pan-American Union from original reports from the saveral countries. The figures are to the whole. The tent of the whole The tent of the tent of the tent of mated, being founded upon incomplete returns, and for the Nicaragua and Ecuador they are for the year 1912. In all other cases the period covered is the calendar year 1913.

How is this trade distributed among the principal commercial nations of the link of the linked Kingdom, 12.5 per cent, and from France, 7.2 per cent. The same countries experted to the United States 71.5 per cent of their total foreign exports, to the United Kingdom, 11.1 per cnt; to

ning of the war, to maintain their po- trade is due to its commanding position in the ten nearby republic that in South America it is far hehind German trade, it can be predicted with the United Kingdom in both imports reasonable confidence that the lead and exports, and behind Germany in in this trade acquired first by the United States in 1913 will not be lost ca the trade of the United States is unevenly distributed as compared with In 1914.
In the field of Latin-American experts the United States in 1913 took goods to the value of \$477,628,500, the United Kingdom, \$321,358,313; Gert the United Kingdom, \$321,358,313; Gert the United Kingdom, \$21,858,136,172; France, \$128,329,068. ports from the United States exceeded Uruguay, the United States falls bethe exports thereto. In the remaining ten countries, Mexico, Salvador, many; in Paraguay it is below France Costa Rica, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, the United Kingdom.

WAR BELONGS TO AUTOCRACIES

I understand that the proposed cele- getting very angry with the other at bration of the hundred years of peace times and getting over it again, but is to be postponed because, at the very neither of them really having anything time when we should be celebrating, which would be called a foreign policy all of Europe and much of Asia in the European sense.

frica are engaged in the most On the other side of the Atlantic and Africa are engaged in the most Review of Reviews.

"Foreign politics demand scarcely any of those qualities which a democracy possesses; and they require, on contrary, the perfect use those faculties in which it is deficient. . . . A democracy is un-able to regulate the details of an important undertaking, to persevere in a design, and to work out its execution in the presence of serious obstacles, It cannot combine its measures with secrecy, and will not await their consequences with patience. These are qualities which more especially belong to an individual or to an aristocracy; and they are precisely the means by which an individual people attains a

predominant position. The eighty years which have passed since De Tocqueville wrote have wit-nessed a great development of democratic government and much-increased opportunity to judge of its strength

nd weakness. It seems now that the very qualities of monarchical or aristocratic which De Tocqueville assumed to be necessary for the conduct of foreign affairs tend to make continually recurring wars inevitable, while the deficiencies which De Tocqueville ascribed to democratic government tend towards the preservation of peace.
Of course, the difficulties of international relations in Europe are vastly greater than in America, yet there is enough similarity to make a compari-

son suggestive. Between the Atlantic and the Pacific we have two peoples living under essentially democratic government, stretching along more than 3,000 miles of boundary, and maintaining peace for a hundred years notwithstanding serious causes of controversy, for instance, as the northeastern boundary, the Oregon boundary, the boundary, the Fenian disturbances, the Caroline affair, the fisheries disputes. An examination of their hisshows that what De Tocqueville said of democracies was true of both these countries, and that neither conntry had any particular policy. Neither was seeking to "attain a predominant was seeking to attain a predominant position" through "an important undertaking," through "persevering in design," or "combining measures with secrecy." Both peoples were going on attending to their own business, press-ing forward their production and trade

tremendous war ever known, writes Senator Elihu Root, in the American Review of Beviews. have been all the qualities which De Tocqueville ascribes to "an individual or an aristocracy"; definite govern-The coincidence recalls De Tocque ville's criticism upon democracies. He criticism upon democracies. He criticism upon democracies design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation, "perseverance design," "measures combined with the coincidence recalls De Tocque eration to generation coincidence recalls De Tocque | mental policies persisting from gendesign," "measures combined with se-crecy" as "means for individual peoples to attain predominant positions." conciliation, good understanding, kindly feeling, between nations have failed to penetrate beneath the surface of things, dispel national suspicions of

each other's designs, or prevent the working out of these different policies into inevitable war.

The contrast tends to show that democratic government, for the very reason that it has no specific and persistent foreign policies, is more favorable to peace than the old system of government.

Christmas in Brittany

Among the quaint observances of the

Christmas time that have come dow through the centuries from the Middle Ages is one that prevails in the villages of Brittany, France. This is a kind of miracle play given on Christmas Eve. The crib or manger is erected in the church. Instead of lay figures representing the holy family, living persons assume the several characters The blessed Virgin is represented by village maid. St. Joseph is a youn nan known to all the villagers, and the infant Jesus is a baby of flesh and blood. Real cattle munch hay in the mimic crib behind the place "where the young Child lay." Mass is said, during which a procession of priests, altar boys and the congregation marches round the church. Arriving at the crib, homage is paid to all the characters in the Nativity scene. Holy water is sprinkled on man, mald and marches round the church babe, and afterward on the cattle. priest then goes to the door of the church and blesses all the herds and flocks of the people, which are driven past him in the roadway. Many of hese have bells about their necks, and the solemn words of blessing sound the lowing of the cattle, the basing of the sheep and the cries of the

May Make It Fit. (Detroit Free Press.) A St. Louis woman was sued by her ing forward their production and trade gown she had outgrown. That dress and means of self-improvement, each maker may yet worry the lady thin. dressmaker for \$200 in payment for a